

Utah

Commission on Volunteers

2010 Annual Report

The mission of the Utah Commission on Volunteers, an office of the Lieutenant Governor, is to improve communities through service and volunteerism.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The Utah Commission on Volunteers was created by state statute in February 1994 and is comprised of 25 Governor appointed commissioners, 5 full time staff, and 1 AmeriCorps VISTA member. It furthers its mission by promoting community collaboration, volunteer recognition, youth service and administering federally funded AmeriCorps and National Service programs. A few highlights include:

- Utah ranked #1 in the nation for volunteerism for the past 5 years
- With a state investment of \$153K the Commission's total leveraged funding is over \$11.5 million
- On average, Utah's 906,000 volunteers dedicate 200 million hours of service per year which is equivalent to 96,000 full-time employees
- The estimated economic contribution of volunteer hours served is \$3.5 billion annually



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

NATIONAL SERVICE/AMERICORPS

In 2010 Utah's AmeriCorps programs utilized over 300 AmeriCorps members to address critical unmet needs in our communities. These members tutor and mentor youth, connect the medically underserved to health care resources, clean and tend parks and streams, provide recreational opportunities for those with disabilities, teach environmental stewardship, operate after school programs and help communities prepare for disasters.

- In 2010 the Commission was awarded \$2,246,659 in federal AmeriCorps grant funding that was passed through to 10 AmeriCorps* State Programs.
- AmeriCorps members mobilized more than 8,000 volunteers who provided over 130,000 hours of service with an estimated economic value of 2.9 million dollars in 2010.

Program	Awarded Funding	Program Match	Participants
AmeriCorps and the Medically Underserved in Utah	\$343,667	\$214,598	49
Building Utah's Capacity to End Chronic Homelessness	\$335,127	\$353,668	28
Utah Literacy Initiative	\$656,725	\$2,195,284	81
Math Tutoring	\$203,615	\$243,984	30
Utah Conservation Corps	\$313,727	\$192,969	53
Boys & Girls Clubs of Utah County	\$75,458	\$43,511	19
Disabled Outdoor Recreation Programs	\$75,597	\$102,183	7
Campus Recreation/Community Outreach	\$70,292	\$62,918	12
Red Cross	\$63,000	\$81,311	5
Youth Garden Project	\$109,451	\$94,368	23
Total	\$2,246,659	\$3,584.794	307

Selected Highlights of impact of AmeriCorps Programs

- AmeriCorps provides 523 disabled individuals with the ability to participate in activities that expand physical abilities and improved self-esteem.
- Over 11,000 volunteers have been recruited and utilized in 2010.
- 3233 disadvantaged children and youth participated in positive youth development programming.
- Nearly 28,000 individuals were educated on preventative health methods and access options to health care.
- Approximately 15,000 youth were provided with safe places to play and learn during out-of-school hours.
- The academic performance of over 10,000 already struggling Utah youth in 124 schools across the state h increased.

AmeriCorps Week

The fourth annual AmeriCorps Week was a major success! Utah AmeriCorps members were front row to witness Governor Gary Herbert make a proclamation that May 9-15, 2010 was AmeriCorps Week. Members came together to do community service projects like plant a community pumpkin patch, and pull weeds and till the soil at the Wasatch Community Gardens. The week culminated as nearly 300 AmeriCorps State and VISTA members gathered to be recognized on ESPN 2 at the Real Salt Lake halftime show.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

The Commission seeks to build and cultivate capacity in the volunteer and service community, recognize volunteer leaders and inspire statewide volunteerism through collaboration and consensus.

Lieutenant Governor's Conference on Service

The conference on service is the only statewide gathering of service sector leaders including those from the nonprofit, government, faith-based, and corporate sectors. In 2010 nearly 600 attendees participated in workshops, panels, and informative sessions which explored the full range of nonprofit best practices: Governance, Fundraising, Collaboration, and of course Volunteerism. The 2010 Conference on Service was keynoted by: Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell, Elaine Pace, and Bryan Hickman. The service project for the Conference on Service was the restoration of Sandy City Park, as well as Sandy City Hall offices.

Statewide Volunteer Match Tool – volunteers.utah.gov

The Utah Commission on volunteers made a strategic investment in its website, www.volunteers.utah.gov. In partnership with the Utah Volunteer Center Association, the Commission created a single space where volunteers can search through the database of all Utah's volunteer centers for volunteer opportunities. As a volunteer you can use the powerful search tool to find meaningful volunteer opportunities based on your location, areas of interest, skills set and time available to commit. In 2010 there were 19,954 visitors to the volunteer match tool with 98,119 page views.

Volunteer Generation Fund

In October of 2010 the Commission was awarded \$100,000 from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The overarching focus for this program is to increase the number of highly skilled and long-term volunteers serving in Utah. This will be accomplished through 2 specific strategies. First, by investing directly in the capacity of Utah volunteer connector organizations through development of a certification program which will provide organizational expertise in volunteer management skills. This will improve their role as support centers that local nonprofits can turn to for guidance. Second, utilization of national days of service to increase the public's awareness of volunteer opportunities in the state and allow nonprofits to identify potential long-term volunteers. In year one 1,300 new volunteers will participate in such events, and in the next two years, they will be supported and retained while 500 additional volunteers are brought on and tracked in a web-based system. This \$100,000 will leverage a match of \$53,616.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The Commission seeks to encourage and recognize volunteers across the state by administering 10 state awards. The Commission also helps organizations develop strategies for recognizing their own volunteers.

Volunteer Recognition and Awards Banquet

Each year in conjunction with the Lieutenant Governor's Conference on Service the Utah Commission on Volunteers awards 1 volunteer service award for each award category. Award categories are: Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award, Lieutenant Governor's Civic Volunteer of the Year Award, Corporate Volunteer Program of the Year Award, Nonprofit Volunteer Program of the Year Award, Volunteer Administrator of the Year Award, Utah AmeriCorps Member/VISTA of the Year Award, Community Preparedness Award, Youth Service Utah Award, and Senior Volunteer of the Year. Each year at the Volunteer Recognition and Awards Banquet a speaker is chosen to give the George Romney Keynote Address; an homage to the founder of the nation's first volunteer center, George Romney. In 2010 over 600 attended the Volunteer Recognition and Awards Banquet.

YOUTH SERVICE

The Commission seeks to foster civic engagement and leadership development in youth and increase the number of young people serving in their communities.

Summer of Service

Summer of Service Utah is a statewide campaign in partnership with the Utah Commission on Volunteers and the Volunteer Center Association of Utah to celebrate and mobilize people of all ages to make a difference in their communities by volunteering over the summer. In 2010 the Youth Voice Sub-Committee engaged over 600 participants logged over 7900 hours of service. 43 of those participants earned the Presidential Volunteer Service Award; a national honor. The top winner from each age category was awarded a private lunch with the Lieutenant Governor and were presented their award at a press conference honoring their achievements.

ENGAGING OLDER ADULTS

The Commission seeks to empower the growing population of older Americans to use their abilities, their experience, and their energy to help address community problems through National Service and volunteerism.

Senior Corps Week

Senior Corps Week is a week-long initiative designed to create awareness and recognize and thank community partners and volunteer for the impact they make in their communities. We recognize not just the durability and effectiveness of Senior Corps' legacy – but the unique ability that Americans 55 and over possess to use their wisdom, their professional skills, and their experience to foster and nurture the kind of change that makes a generational impact. The commission was successful in engaging the media to celebrate Senior Corps and included several local stories run on Television, Newspapers, and an Op-Ed in Utah Boomers Magazine.